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P 091146Z JAN 08  
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0833  
INFO RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY 7983  
RUEHBU/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY 2117  
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY 9748  
RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ JAN 9164  
RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY 5768  
RUEHZP/AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY 1062  
RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY 6473  
RUEHGL/AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL PRIORITY 4255  
RHMFISS/FBI WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
RHMFISS/CDR USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL PRIORITY  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY

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SUBJECT: GOC TRIES TO DEFINE RULES OF THE GAME FOR  
HUMANITARIAN COMMISSIONS TO RECOVER FARC-HELD HOSTAGES

REF: BOGOTA 54

[1](#)1. Peace Commissioner Luis Carlos Restrepo said on January 8 that the GOC would only accept future international "humanitarian missions" to free Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC)-held hostages if commission members agreed to three GOC conditions: respect the GOC, be discreet, and maintain permanent communication. Restrepo reiterated previous GOC guarantees to allow a possible international mission to move forward (including Venezuelan participation) to recover hostages Clara Rojas and Consuelo Gonzalez de Perdomo. He also voiced the GOC's full confidence in the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and their protocols to recover the hostages. Finally, Restrepo said the GOC remained in communication with the Venezuelan Government regarding a possible mission.

[1](#)2. Restrepo's announcement followed a statement by Foreign Minister Fernando Araujo on January 5 that the GOC would not accept new international humanitarian commissions similar to the failed year-end commission organized by Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez (reftel) to recover Rojas, her son Emmanuel, and Consuelo Gonzalez de Perdomo. Araujo said the commission's lack of knowledge of the Colombian situation, criticism of the GOC, and defense of the FARC caused the GOC to review its policy. Araujo cited Venezuelan demands that the GOC explain how the Emmanuel case developed, saying, "the Venezuelans should ask for explanations from the FARC, since they are the ones who deceived them."

[1](#)3. Sergio Caramagna, head of the Organization of American States' Mission in Support of the Peace Process in Colombia (OAS-MAPP), told the media that the events of the failed Chavez mission "spoke for themselves in a very eloquent manner," and justified the GOC's decision to refine its policy towards authorizing the commissions. Caramagna's statements followed a GOC appeal to the international community to respect Colombia's democratic institutions. Brownfield